

TO: NEW UCLA HOUSE STAFF

RE: Hepatitis B Vaccine

Hepatitis B vaccine is strongly recommended for all house officers who have any risk of exposure to blood, blood products or bodily secretions. The chance of being infected with Hepatitis B is very real during your training. No matter how safe you believe you will be, you can decrease your risk by taking a hepatitis vaccine series. The Medical Center, through the Occupational Health Facility, offers a recombinant, non-infectious sub-unit viral vaccine derived from Hepatitis B surface antigen (produced in yeast cells). This is a very safe, low toxicity vaccine which we strongly recommend if you have not been previously vaccinated or have had Hepatitis B infection. The vaccine is provided at no cost to all UCLA house staff.

VACCINE INFORMATION

Spectrum: Immunization against infection caused by all known subtypes of Hepatitis B virus; not effective against Hepatitis A or Hepatitis C or Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis.

Description: Recombinant Hepatitis B Vaccine: Non-infectious viral vaccine produced in recombinant yeast strains carrying genes for coding for the Hepatitis B surface antigen. Vaccine is free of association with human blood products. This is from recombinant DNA and has no risk of AIDS, or other viral infections.

Efficacy: Induces protective levels of antibody in greater than 90% of adults.

To determine protection , (>10 IU/ml) needs HBs antibody titer at least 1-2 months after completing 3 shot series.

Dosage: **Initial dose is followed by doses at ONE month and FIVE months after second dose.** Follow up doses will be provided at the Occupational Health Facility located in Suite 67-120 CHS, 10833 LeConte Avenue at your convenience. Their office hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (phone: x56771).

Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to thimerosal, aluminum hydroxide and yeast.

Adverse reactions: Injection site soreness, erythema, swelling, warmth (17% of those receiving vaccines) and malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, myalgia, arthralgia, rash and low grade fever (2% of recipients).